

Please insert the following sentence at page 5, line 11, which pertains to the new figures,

Figures 6a through 6d (attached hereto):

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--Figures 6a through 6d illustrate a flow chart depicting the manufacturing process for creating a package having the tear tape of the present invention.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 and add the below-mentioned new claims, which are consecutively numbered 9-28:

9. A method of forming a package comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of plastic packaging material having two sides and a top edge and a bottom edge;

attaching a heat sealable tear tape to said plastic packaging material wherein said heat sealable tear tape comprises a first heat sealable layer on a first side of said heat sealable tear tape and a second heat sealable layer on a second side of said heat sealable tear tape;

placing a food product on said plastic packaging material;

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folding said plastic packaging material over said food product such that said top edge and said bottom edge are aligned; and

sealing said folded plastic packaging material along said two sides and along said aligned top and bottom edges.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said sheet of plastic packaging material comprises multiple film layers.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a first oriented film layer disposed between said first heat sealable layer and said second heat sealable layer.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a first adhesive disposed between said first oriented film layer and said first heat sealable layer and a second adhesive disposed between said first oriented film layer and said second heat sealable layer.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a second oriented layer disposed between said first heat sealable layer and said second heat sealable layer and further wherein a core adhesive layer is disposed between said first and second oriented film layers.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a first adhesive layer disposed between said first oriented layer and said first heat sealable layer and a second adhesive layer disposed between said second oriented layer and said second heat sealable layer.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein said heat sealable tear tape is symmetrical through a cross-section of said heat sealable tear tape.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers have melt temperatures below about 220°F.

17. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:
attaching a reclosable zipper to said plastic packaging material prior to placing said food product on said plastic packaging material.

18. A method of forming a package comprising the steps of:
providing a sheet of plastic packaging material having two sides and a top edge and a bottom edge;

attaching a heat sealable tear tape to said plastic packaging material wherein said heat sealable tear tape has a first heat sealable layer on a first side of said heat sealable tear tape and a second heat sealable layer on a second side of said heat sealable tear tape;

attaching a reclosable zipper to said plastic packaging material;

placing a food product on said plastic packaging material;

folding said plastic packaging material over said food product such that said top edge and said bottom edge are aligned; and

sealing said folded plastic packaging material along said two sides and along said aligned top and bottom edges.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers have

A3 melt temperatures below about 220°F.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said first and second heat sealable layers each comprise a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, ionomer, ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and single site polyethylene.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said first and second heat sealable layers comprise coextruded ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer

22. The method of claim 18, wherein said first and second heat sealable layers comprise coextruded ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer.

23. A hermetically sealed plastic package made by the method of claim 9.

24. The hermetically sealed plastic package of claim 23 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers have melt temperatures of below approximately 220°F.